

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NRC-05 ACDA-12 SOE-02 AID-05
CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 DOE-15 INT-05 OMB-01 OES-07
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 6263

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, MNUC, PARM, IR
SUBJ: US-IRAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT

1. BAYANDOR, ASSISTANT TO PRIMIN AMOUZEGAR, HAS CALLED CHARGE TO STATE THAT PRIMIN HAS DISCUSSED AMBASSADOR'S APPROACH (TEHRAN 5640) WITH "HIGHER AUTHORITY." IRANIAN POSITION WAS, HE SAID, THAT IF US EXTENDED REPROCESSING RIGHTS TO ANOTHER PARTY FOLLOWING RATIFICATION OF THE US-IRAN BILATERAL, THEN IRAN SHOULD ALSO HAVE THE SAME BENEFITS. IRAN WANTED AUTHENTIC MOST-FAVORED -NATION TREATMENT, HE CONCLUDED.

2. BAYANDOR HAS LITTLE BACKGROUND ON NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS. HE RECEIVED HIS INSTRUCTIONS ORALLY FROM THE PRIMIN AND HIS FIRST REPORT TO ME WAS SO CONFUSED THAT IT WAS UNREPORTABLE. I REQUESTED CLARIFICATION AND A PRECISE STATEMENT OF THE IRANIAN POSITION AND PARA ONE WAS THE RESULT. I NOTED THAT THIS FORMULATION APPEARED TO BE A REGRESSION FROM THE PRIMIN'S TENTATIVE THOUGHTS AS EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR. BAYANDOR DID NOT DISAGREE.

3. COMMENT: PRIMIN'S STATEMENT IS, OF COURSE, CONSISTENT WITH POSITION GOI HAS TAKEN IN ALL NEGOTIATIONS
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THIS YEAR FOLLOWING PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH SHAH. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT GOI WOULD AGREE THAT VERY REPEAT VERY LIMITED EXCEPTIONS FOR SCIENTIFIC, RESEARCH OR INFCE RELATED PURPOSES DO NOT GIVE IRAN THE RIGHT FOR FULL SCALE REPROCESSING. HOWEVER, EVEN IN SUCH INSTANCES, THE GOI MAY DEMAND EQUIVALENT RIGHTS AS A CONTINGENCY FOR THEIR WON FUTURE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. WE

HAVE REACHED, IN OUR VIEW, THE FINAL CRUNCH: IF WE WISH TO CONCLUDE A BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH IRAN, THE MOST-FAVORED-NATION CONCEPT MUST BE APPLIED CLEARLY AND UNAMBIGUOUSLY. IN THE MEANTIME, IRAN IS MOVING APACE WITH IT POWER REACTOR PROGRAM AND APPEARS TO BE ON THE VERGE OF SIGNING UP FOR AT LEAST TWO AND POSSIBLY FOUR MORE REACTORS FROM FRANCE. THIS DEAL WILL, REPORTEDLY, INVOLVE AT LEAST PARTIAL FINANCING BY OIL BARTER. END COMMENT.

4. THE PRIMIN'S OFFICE HAS ALSO INFORMED US THAT FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BILATERAL SHOULD BE PURSUED WITH THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY WHICH, UNDER RECENTLY APPROVED LEGISLATION, HAS THE AUTHORITY FOR NEGOTIATING AGREEMENTS, PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS.

5. COMMENT: LEGISLATION APPEARS TO LEAVE AEOI WITH ESSENTIALLY REGULATORY RESPONSIBILITIES. ITS ROLE IN NUCLEAR RESEARCH AND TRAINING IS NOT CLEAR AT THIS TIME BUT THE PROPOSED MOVE OF AEOI TO ISFAHAN, THE LOCALE FOR IRAN' MAJOR RESEARCH LABORATORY, MAY INDICATE THAT AEOI WILL HAVE THE LEAD IN SUCH ACTIVITIES.

6. WE ASSUME THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY WILL ABSORB SUCH AEOI SPECIALISTS AS MANZOOR OR WILL SECURE THEM FOR THE PURPOSES OF NEGOTIATING THE BILATERAL.
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END COMMENT.
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